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CIA Asks Police Chiefs for Recruitment Help

WASHINGTON

The CIA has asked police chiefs in 18 cities to look among their own ranks for possible recruits for the agency's intelligence and anti-terrorism programs, a spokeswoman said.

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"We're always looking for good people," CIA spokeswoman Kathy Pherson said Sunday. "We have more than enough applications. But the trick is finding the people with the skills."

The CIA and FBI briefed the police chiefs last July about their intelligence and counterterrorism programs, she said. During the session, the CIA asked the police chiefs to determine if anyone in their departments was interested in working for the intelligence agency.

She said that the CIA does a lot of its recruiting on college campuses that offer international studies programs because "students there have the background we're looking for." She said the agency also is interested in recruiting police officers because "they have some of the skills we're looking for."

Police chiefs representing New York City, Philadelphia, Houston, Chicago, Boston and San Francisco were among those attending the briefing last summer.